

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 04390 120830Z
ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, PBOR, GR, TU, US
SUBJECT: REPORT ABOUT US INITIATIVE ON THE AEGEAN CONTINENTAL
SHELF AND AIRSPACE ISSUES

1. AN ARTICLE ENTITLED "GREECE REJECTS U.S. INTERVENTION
ON THE CONTINENTAL SHELF" WHICH APPEARED IN AKROPOLIS
(PRO-GOVERNMENT, CONSERVATIVE) ON MAY 10 MAY BE OF INTEREST
TO THE DEPARTMENT. THE ARTICLE DATELINED LONDON, MAY 10,
FROM THE PAPER'S CORRESPONDENT E.A. PAPAGEORGIOU,
DISCUSSES THE US INTEREST IN FINDING SOLUTIONS TO THE
AEGEAN CONTINENTAL SHELF AND AIRSPACE ISSUES AND READS AS
FOLLOWS (OUR INFORMAL TRANSLATION):

2. BEGIN TEXT. THE GREEK SIDE REJECTED AN AMERICAN
OFFER TO GIVE ADVICE AND STATE CERTAIN VIEWS OF
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PAGE 02 ATHENS 04390 120830Z

WASHINGTON ON THE SUBJECT OF THE AEGEAN CONTINENTAL SHELF.
THE AMERICAN OFFER WAS MADE VERY RECENTLY IN THE
FORM OF SOUNDINGS IN ATHENS AND WASHINGTON CONCERNING
THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE GREEK SIDE WOULD CONSIDER IT
DESIRABLE TO HEAR CERTAIN AMERICAN IDEAS ABOUT THE WAY
IN WHICH THE CONTINENTAL SHELF ISSUE MIGHT BE RESOLVED.
APPARENTLY THE INTERVENTION OF THIRD PARTIES IN THE

MATTER IS NOT CONSIDERED DESIRABLE AT THIS POINT.
NEVERTHELESS, WELL-INFORMED DIPLOMATIC SOURCES IN THE BRITISH
CAPITAL DO NOT EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE AMERICANS WILL
SHOW THEIR INTEREST AGAIN--AFTER THE JUNE 5 TURKISH ELECTIONS--
IN HOW THE AEGEAN CONTINENTAL SHELF AND AIRSPACE ISSUES COULD
BE SOLVED.

3. INFORMED SOURCES, ON THE BASIS OF CERTAIN INDICATIONS
AVAILABLE TO THEM, HYPOTHESIZE THAT THE AMERICANS WOULD
BE PREPARED TO PROPOSE THAT THERE BE INTERIM AGREEMENTS
BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY ON BOTH ISSUES. THESE INTERIM
AGREEMENTS WOULD NOT AFFECT GREEK RIGHTS NOR WOULD THEY
SET ASIDE TURKISH CLAIMS. THE PURPOSE WOULD BE TO
INCREASE THE POSSIBILITY OF FINDING (PERMANENT) SOLUTIONS WHILE AT
THE SAME TIME REDUCING TENSION IN THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE
TWO COUNTRIES. THIS TENSION IS MAINTAINED BECAUSE THE
CONTINENTAL SHELF AS WELL AS THE AEGEAN AIRSPACE ISSUES REMAIN
UNRESOLVED. IN THE MEANTIME, A NEW MEETING OF GREEK-TURKISH
EXPERTS ON THE CONTINENTAL SHELF IS CONSIDERED CERTAIN TO BE
HELD AT THE END OF MAY.

4. PARALLEL TO THIS, AN EFFORT WILL BE MADE FOR
MOVEMENT FROM THE PRESENT STANDSTILL IN THE TALKS ON
THE AEGEAN AIRSPACE ISSUE. THE BASIS FOR THIS NEW
EFFORT WILL BE ALL THAT HAS BEEN DISCUSSED UP TO NOW AND
NOT THE COMPLETELY NEW PROPOSALS WHICH TURKEY SUBMITTED
RECENTLY WHICH WERE UNRELATED TO WHAT HAD PRECEDED THEM.
THESE NEW PROPOSALS AIMED AT STATING THE TALKS FROM THE
BEGINNING AGAIN. AND IF THIS TURKISH TACTIC HAD BEEN
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PAGE 03 ATHENS 04390 120830Z

ACCEPTED, THE GREEK SIDE, IN TURN, WOULD HAVE TO SUBMIT NEW
PROPOSALS WITH THE RESULT THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS WOULD
MAKE NO PROGRESS AND WOULD CONTINUE FOREVER. IN ANY CASE,
EVEN THE AGREEMENT FOR THE TALKS TO CONTINUE FROM THE POINT
THEY HAD REACHED PREVIOUSLY DOES NOT GUARANTEE THAT TURKEY
WILL BE WILLING TO BRING THE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE AEGEAN
AIRSPACE ISSUE TO A CONCLUSION. END TEXT.
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